

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

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R 221634 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2086
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07235

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IR, SA, UK

SUBJECT: IRANIAN PERSIAN GULF POLICY

REF: STATE 115268; TEHRAN 4400

1. WE EXPRESSED USG DOUBTS ABOUT PROPOSED IRANIAN DECLARATION TO FCO' S PARSONS AND WRIGHT ON JUNE 20, PER STATE REFTEL. PARSONS REPLIED THAT IRANIANS HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED THEIR IDEA WITH " OTHER GULF GOVERNMENTS" PRELIMINARY TO RAISING IT WITH SAUDI ARABIANS DURING FM KHALATBARI' S UPCOMING VISIT THERE. THESE GULF GOVERNMENTS ALL REPLIED THEY WOULD GO ALONG WITH JOINT DECLARATION IF EVERYONE ELSE DID, WHICH PARSONS OPINED IS A WAY OF EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO IT. BRITISH BELIEVE PROPOSED DECLARATION WILL SINK OF ITS OWN WEIGHT ONCE IT IS LODGED ON QUICKSAND OF SAUDI BUREAUCRACY.

2. WRIGHT ADDED THAT BRITISH HAD CONSIDERED TAKING UP IRANIAN INVITATION TO ASSIST IN DRAFTING THIS DECLARATION BUT HAD DECIDED TO AVOID GETTING EMBROILED IN DRAFTING EXERCISE. THEY PREFER TO LET IRANIANS EXPERIENCE ARAB REACTION TO SUCH TERMS AS " PERSIAN
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GULF" AT FIRST HAND. THEY THEREFORE DO NOT INTEND TO ACT ON OUR SUGGESTION THAT IRANIANS BE ADVISED TO REVISE THE DECLARATION BEFORE DISCUSSING IT WITH OTHER GULF STATES (STATE REFTEL).

3. COMMENT: SINCE IRANIANS HAVE APPARENTLY ALREADY DISCUSSED IDEA OF DECLARATION WITH SOME GULF ARAB GOVERNMENTS, WE SEE LESS NEED TO TREAT MATTER WITH AS STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY AS BEFORE. IN VIEW FM KHALATBARI'S REQUEST FOR AMBASSADOR THACHER'S ASSISTANCE (TEHRAN REFTEL) WE ASSUME THIS GIVES US ADEQUATE OPENING TO PUT IRANIANS ON NOTICE THAT THEY SHOULD BE CAREFUL THEIR ACTIONS DO NOT TAKE PUBLIC FORM WHICH WOULD APPEAR AIMED AT REMAINING WESTERN PRESENCE IN AREA, THUS PLAYING INTO HANDS OF IRAQIS AND THEIR SOVIET BACKERS, AMONG OTHER THINGS. WE ASSUME THESE POINTS MAY ALSO BE MADE BY THE SAUDIS IF DECLARATION IS PUT BY IRAN IN EARLIER TERMS. THERE IS GOOD CHANCE, HOWEVER, THAT BRITISH OBJECTIONS HAVE ALREADY ELIMINATED ANTI- WESTERN CAST OF DECLARATION SO THAT QUESTION WILL NOT ARISE.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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